

classifying renal diseases by etiology. Again, an article on hypothyroidism during infancy and childhood contains fourteen pages of text including a summary, plus one full page illustration and a page and a half of references: therapy is presented in a section extending over but one and a half pages, and in 4 sentences in the summary.

An article on the management of acute pyelonephritis is concise and clear. In the discussion of antibacterial agents no mention is made of nalidixic acid (NegGram®) while the importance of urinary pH is referred to in but a single sentence and then only in relation to the use of sulfonamides. There is no contribution on the treatment of chronic pyelonephritis or on urinary lithiasis. Contributions on these topics would have seemed to be more useful to the practitioner than did an article on the pharmacology of organic mercurial and diuretic compounds.

As might be expected the opinions offered, while authoritative, are sometimes at variance with those of others in the field. For example, Dr. DeGroot of Boston in discussing the treatment of the single toxic nodule of the thyroid, refers to resection of the nodule as customary, but seems to favor the use of  $I^{131}$ . Others would argue strongly for subtotal resection of the gland. It is entirely proper and desirable for the authors to express their preferences, but fuller consideration of problems in therapy may often be obtained by reference to larger works such as, for example, those written by Dr. DeGroot and his colleagues at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and by Dr. Schreiner.

In summary, the reviewer found the articles in this first number easy to read, enjoyable, and authoritative. The information offered has been presented elsewhere in standard works and journals, but has been here distilled into essays which are lucid and helpful to all interested in the areas covered.

ADOLPH SURTSHIN, M.D.

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**PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY**—edited by L. Byerly Holt, M.D., F.I.C.S., Surgical Director, Marguerite Barr Moon Eye Research Foundation, Inc., Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, Pa., 1964. 403 pages, \$12.00.

This book will be of value for pediatricians with particular interests in ophthalmology, or with problems relating to specific eye defects in their patients. It will be helpful to residents in pediatrics and in ophthalmology for orientation. Most sections of the book are written with a direction toward the pediatrician as a reader, and will not fully explore individual subjects to the extent desired by an interested ophthalmologist. Representing as it does a compendium including contributions by 32 separate authors, it has several brilliant sections (cataract, ocular tumors, strabismus, myopia, neurology). I was surprised that a section on retrolental fibroplasia was not included, as this important disease is still with us. In summary, the book has value for pediatricians as a reference, and for residents, students and interns as a source of introductory information.

ALAN B. SCOTT, M.D.

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**SPECIALTIES IN GENERAL PRACTICE**—Third Edition—edited by Russell L. Cecil, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus, Cornell University Medical College, New York City, and Howard F. Conn, M.D., Staff, Uniontown Hospital, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1964. 676 pages, \$17.50.

This book proposes to be a reference handbook for general practitioners and within the limitation imposed on the authors it accomplishes this. To cover the field of surgery in sixty two pages or pediatrics in sixty pages is indeed quite a challenge and it is remarkable that the authors have done so well. There are some who would appreciate the absence

of what they call useless discussion and there are others who would prefer, when reaching for a reference book, to have a full discussion of the problem they are reviewing.

The book could be very useful to other physicians, any of the specialists, who want a quick refresher of their memories when they run across something outside of their field and yet want to discuss briefly and intelligently their discovery with the patient and with the physician to whom they will do the referring.

As would be expected the chapters are not uniform in their approach. For example, the chapter on surgery assumes that the reader will have had a good medical education and proposes the latest opinions on diagnosis and therapy while the section on ophthalmology starts out with instruction on the use of the ophthalmoscope which everyone should have learned long ago in medical school.

Where space, weight and time are the important factors in a reference book this one will be found quite satisfactory. Where thoroughness of discussion is desired one should turn to more extensive treatises. This latest edition seems to have been thoroughly revised and brought up to date.

STANLEY R. TRUMAN, M.D.

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**CURRENT PSYCHIATRIC THERAPIES**—An Annual Publication—Vol. IV, 1964—edited by Jules Masserman, M.D., Professor and Co-chairman of Psychiatry, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., 1964. 315 pages, \$9.75.

This is not (and is presumably not intended to be) a comprehensive review or a digest of current psychiatric therapies. It consists of 38 articles by 56 contributors of varying quality and content; ranging in style from reviews and anecdotes to more precise research investigations; but concentrating particularly on the rationale and technics of family, group and community therapy. Depending on his interests and prejudices, the psychiatrist or the psychiatrically minded reader will find some articles stimulating, others mediocre.

In this book, the very last section of all is headed "Psychiatry Abroad," its professional content being devoted mainly to the Mental Health Service in Britain. To set the record straight, "therapeutic community" methods were developed in Britain *before* the Mental Health Service, and current psychiatric therapy in the U.S. owes much to the pioneer work of men such as Cerletti and Bini, Denniker, Freud, Main, Jones, Simmel and Sivadon. It is hoped that future volumes in this series will include this perspective.

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**TEXTBOOK OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY**—Second Edition—David D. DeWeese, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland, Ore., and William H. Saunders, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, Ohio. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1964. 523 pages, \$9.25.

This is probably the best textbook on otolaryngology presently available. The outstanding characteristic of its first edition, *clarity*, is continued in this second edition.

It is particularly good for the medical student, and the general physician interested in otolaryngology. But its comprehensive picture of the broad field of otolaryngology, and as a ready source of references, makes it also of value to the practicing specialist.

No drastic changes from the first edition are made in this second edition. It is slightly larger (523 pages as against 464); additional pertinent illustrations account for many of these pages. The excellence of the first edition precluded radical changes.